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Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Letter dated 26 November 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement issued on 26 November 2001 by the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations with regard to the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/56/12), which has been submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session under agenda item 114 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 114.

(*Signed*) **Kim** Chang Guk
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Annex to the letter dated 26 November 2001 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement issued in New York on 26 November 2001 by the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations with regard to the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (A/56/12)

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea refers to paragraph 66 of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2000 (A/56/12) which has been submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session under agenda item 114 and rejects the content therein as it describes the situation as if there are refugees of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the north-eastern area of the People's Republic of China.

As stated by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on several occasions, there is no "issue of refugees" between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China.

As a consequence of the past colonial rule of Japan over Korea there are many Koreans living in the north-eastern area of the People's Republic of China and it is true that many Korean compatriots usually travel across the border between the two countries to visit their hometowns and relatives through official procedure. It is preposterous to call such travellers "refugees".

The Government of the People's Republic of China has also for its part stated and confirmed on several occasions that there exists a small number of illegal border trespassers and that there exists no "issue of refugees" between the People's Republic of China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The so-called "issue of refugees" is a product premeditated by those hostile forces vis-à-vis the Democratic People's Republic of Korea who are reluctant to see the realization of reconciliation and reunification of the north and south of Korea.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees had once in the past a record of unfair behaviour in dealing with the issue of illegal border trespassers, which is not part of its mandate and function, thus tending towards creating unwillingly an obstacle to the reconciliation process and instigating confrontation between the north and south of Korea.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea states that improper reference to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by UNHCR in its report to the General Assembly is to be construed that it resulted from political motivation lacking impartiality that should be adhered to by an international organization.